

Office of the President
November 12, 1975

TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS:

ITEM FOR ACTION

For Meeting of November 20, 1975

Re: Local Government in Goleta Valley, Santa Barbara Campus

The President recommends that the Committee on Grounds and Buildings recommend to The Regents:

1. That the Regents oppose the proposed incorporation of a city of Isla Vista, (including the University of California, Santa Barbara) currently before the Santa Barbara County Local Agency Formation Commission, on the basis that such incorporation is not in the long-term interests of the Santa Barbara campus; and
2. That the President be authorized to work with community groups and governmental agencies to support the creation of an appropriate and viable governmental entity for the communities surrounding the campus.

BACKGROUND

In January, 1973, The Regents approved in principle campus efforts that, in concert with citizen groups, might lead either to the annexation of the Goleta Valley to the City of Santa Barbara or the incorporation of an appropriate and viable city in the Goleta Valley, including the Santa Barbara campus. The Regents authorized the President ". . .to work in concert with citizens and community groups of the area in the interest of achieving the annexation or incorporation of an appropriate and viable city, including possible application of two-tier government forms", recognizing the following interests of the University:

"Establishment of a form of government that is responsive to the special needs of the University, while recognizing the existence of specific interests of the various unincorporated communities of the Goleta Valley; and

"Determination that there are financial resources adequate to provide programs and services appropriate to a University community".

In November, 1973, The Regents passed a resolution supporting the incorporation of a moderate sized city in the Goleta Valley including the University of California, Santa Barbara, unless the preferable option of annexation to the City of Santa Barbara of the Goleta Valley was proposed to the Santa Barbara Local Agency

City boundaries Isla Vista, CA

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Formation Commission (LAFCO). The Regents further authorized the President to work in concert with citizen and community groups in the area to achieve a two-tier form of government as it applied to either the incorporation of a new city in the Goleta Valley or the annexation of the Goleta Valley to the City of Santa Barbara.

On January 28, 1974, LAFCO received, and on October 24, 1974, LAFCO approved a citizens' proposal for the annexation of the entire Goleta Valley, including the Santa Barbara campus, to the City of Santa Barbara. As required by law, the annexation proposal was presented to the voters in the Goleta Valley and in the City of Santa Barbara in March, 1975. Despite University support for the proposal, the measure was defeated decisively throughout the area.

While annexation was the most favored governmental alternative according to University consultants, area-wide incorporation was a second choice. The most recent statement by proponents of a Goleta incorporation has indicated that a proposal for the incorporation of all or a portion of the Goleta Valley will not be submitted until LAFCO acts either to accept or reject the current Isla Vista incorporation proposal.

On September 12, 1975, a group of Isla Vistans filed a proposal with LAFCO for the incorporation of that community. In addition to Isla Vista proper, the proposal includes the Santa Barbara campus and some contiguous areas. Due to technical deficiencies in the proposal, it was not officially accepted by LAFCO until October 6, 1975.

Upon receipt of the Isla Vista incorporation proposal, the LAFCO staff forwarded it to the County of Santa Barbara Office of Environmental Quality for environmental review. On September 19, 1975, the Environmental Officer determined that the proposal was covered under Negative Declaration 74-ND-165 issued August 26, 1974 in response to the earlier proposal to annex the entire Goleta Valley to the City of Santa Barbara.

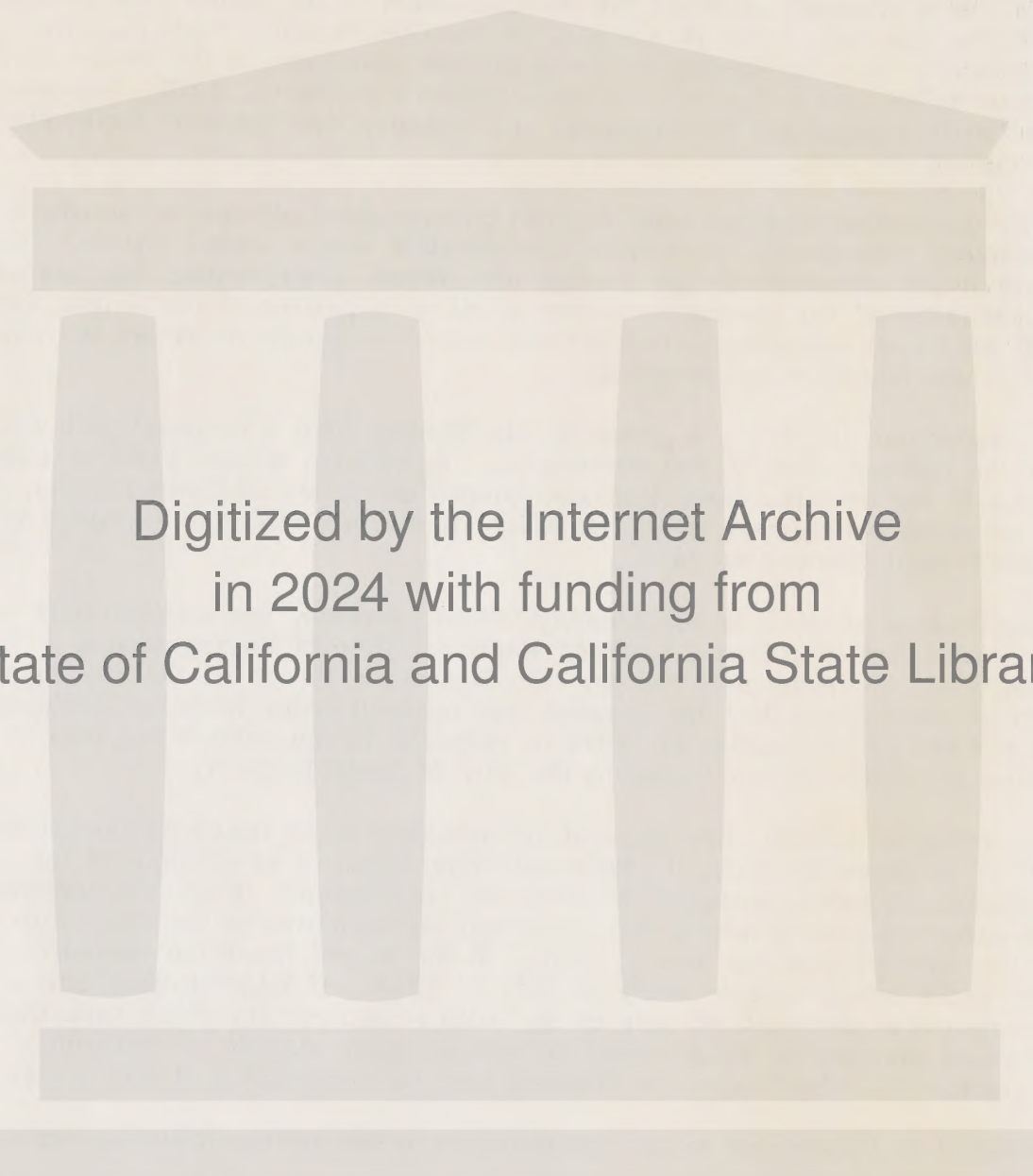
According to LAFCO, the proposal is scheduled to be heard on December 4, 1975. In these hearings, LAFCO can either approve or disapprove the proposal, including changing the proposed boundaries. If LAFCO approves the proposed incorporation, the issue will be submitted to the electorate in the affected area on June 8, 1976. If the voters favor the measure, the city could incorporate as early as July 1, 1976. If LAFCO disapproves the incorporation proposal, it may do so "with prejudice" (in which case the proposal may not be resubmitted for one year) or may do so "without prejudice" (in which case the proposal may be resubmitted at any time).

Attached as background to the incorporation issue are the following reports:*

*Additional background on local government in Santa Barbara County can be found in the following reports submitted to The Regents:

Local Government Studies in Santa Barbara County, Santa Barbara Campus:

- Information Report No. 1, October 4, 1972
- Information Report No. 2, January 8, 1973
- Information Report No. 3, October 5, 1973
- Information Report No. 4, October 31, 1973
- Information Report No. 5, May 2, 1974
- Information Report No. 6, October 1, 1975



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1. An Economic Appraisal of Public Safety Options for an Incorporated City of Isla Vista. Prepared for the University of California, Santa Barbara by Telecote Research, Inc., of Santa Barbara. September, 1975.
2. Evaluation of Isla Vista Incorporation Proposal. Prepared for the University of California by McDonald and Smart, Inc., of San Francisco. November, 1975.
3. Local Government Studies in Santa Barbara County, Santa Barbara Campus, Information Report No. 7. November 6, 1975.
4. Staff Evaluation of Isla Vista Incorporation Proposal: Santa Barbara Campus. November 6, 1975.

Based upon consultant studies and staff review, and as summarized in the Staff Evaluation Report, the incorporation is disadvantageous to The Regents for a number of reasons: (1) the weak financial structure of the proposed city will lead to a deficit budget by 1981-82 and will create problems because of the University's tax exempt status coupled with the city's obligation to provide fire protection service to the campus without charge; (2) the concern that there will be continuing problems as a result of the impact upon the city by the large number of University students living there and the city's probable demand upon the University to help pay for city services provided to these residents; (3) the long-time identification of the campus with the entire Santa Barbara region would be lost; and (4) the expectation that a preferable governmental option of incorporation of the Goleta Valley may occur if the Isla Vista proposal is not approved by LAFCO.

With the concurrence of The Regents, the President will act to oppose this current incorporation proposal and continue to implement earlier Regents' policies supporting incorporation of a moderate size, appropriate, and viable city in the Goleta Valley including the Santa Barbara campus.

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